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A SUMMARY OF THE FOOD OUTLOOK DESIGNED TO GIVE ADVANCE INFORMATION TO FOOD EDITORS

U. S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service

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MEATS.....Supplies of red meats during the first quarter of 1965 are expected to be about the same as during the January-March period last year. Expected increases in beef and veal production during this quarter will be largely offset by declines in pork and lamb and mutton output.

POULTRY and EGGS....

On a daily basis, February marketings of broiler-fryers are expected to be only moderately under a year earlier, but March marketings around 5% larger than last March. As the year began, rate of production of eggs in 50 States was nearly 5% larger than on January 1 last year. In December, egg output exceeded a year earlier by more than 2%. Supplies in March are expected to be above a year ago, and prices below last March's level, which should prove attractive to consumers. Eggs will be a feature of the Plentiful Foods List for March. Production of 97 million turkeys a cut back of 2% from last year has been recommended to producers this year. On January 1 this year cold storage holdings totaled 209 million pounds, which, while 4% under a year earlier, were 11% above average.

DAIRY....

Farm marketings of milk are expected to increase again this year, and a continued gain in commercial demand is anticipated. A further decline in milk cow numbers is likely this year, but expected increases in output per cow are expected to keep milk production near last year's level.

FRESH VEGETABLES....

Winter vegetable production was estimated at 38.9 million hundredweight as of January 1. That's 5% above last year's outturn and 12% greater than the 1959-63 average. However, mid-January freezes caused extensive damage to tender items, including snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes. Loss to hardier commodities was less severe. Cabbage is expected to run 3% more than a year ago; carrots, 7% below last year; celery, 12% above last winter, and lettuce 4% larger that a year ago. Early spring onion acreage in Texas is 2% below last season. Winter production of potatoes is forecast at 3,730,000 hundredweight--1% above 1964 but 8% under average. Increase over last year, due to a 32% larger crop in Florida, is more than offset by a 14% reduction in California. Storage holdings, which furnish bulk of winter marketings, on January 1 were 98 million hundredweight, or 16% below a year ago.

Cold storage holdings of <u>frozen vegetables</u> on January 1 totaled 1 billion, 217 million pounds--down 5% from a year earlier, but 17% above average.

FRUITS

Citrus.....

Latest roundup of citrus prospects on January 1 indicates that production will be 17% larger than last year's crop. The 1964-65 orange crop is expected to be 113 million boxes -- 22% above the previous season, but 8% under average. Grapefruit, forecast at 40.4 million boxes, is 18% above last season but 2% below average. Florida tangerines are estimated at 4.2 million boxes--up 17% from last year and 15% from average. U. S. lemon output is estimated at 13,650,000 boxes, as against slightly more than 18 million a year earlier. Florida limes, now mostly harvested, placed at 520 thousand boxes, compares with 450 thousand the previous season. The quantity of Florida or anges harvested to mid-January ran about 30% ahead of last season. Movement of grapefruit to fresh market is moderately behind last season, but offset by a heavier movement to processors. Tangerines and tangelos are both nearing the end of the season. On January 1 holdings of frozen orange juice moved up to 18 million gallons, a December gain of nearly 4 million gallons. January 1 stocks a year ago were 20 million gallons, against the 21 million average.

Deciduous

FRUITS...... Refrigerated holdings of fresh apples on January 1 totaled nearly 40 million bushels--about equal to a year earlier. Storage of fresh pears, placed at 2 million boxes, was a tenth larger than both this time last year and the 1958-62 average. Production of fresh fall and winter pears in the three Pacific Coast States was 5 million bushels--7% greater than the previous season's short turnout, but about a tenth below the 5-year average. On January 1, holdings of frozen fruits were 552 million pounds--27% above a year ago and a tenth above average. Supplies of frozen cherries ran to 133.4 million pounds, or more than double a year ago. Strawberries, at 159 million pounds, while a little under average for January 1, were

RICE..... Production of rough rice last year rang up another record--over 73 million hundredweight. This list 4% larger than the previous record of 1963, and 46% larger than the 1957-61 average.

a fifth larger than a year earlier.

PEANUTS...... The 1964 crop is estimated at 2 billion, 167 million pounds of farmers' stock nuts. That's 7% more than a year earlier, and the biggest output since 1948.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT EGG PROMOTION
INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT CHERRY TIME PROMOTION - MONTH OF
FEBRUARY

INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT SPECIAL PRUNE PROMOTION - MONTH OF APRIL

The following foods will be in plentiful supply during March: Eggs, Peanuts and Peanut Products, Rice, Canned Pink Salmon, Red Tart Cherries, Apples, Canned Pears, Carrots, Cabbage, Celery, and Fresh Winter Pears.